

Social Security

You May
Be Able To
Get SSI



What Is SSI?

SSI stands for Supplemental Security Income. It's a program run by Social Security. It pays monthly checks to the elderly, the blind and people with disabilities who don't own many things or have much income.

If you get SSI, you usually get food stamps and Medicaid, too. Medicaid helps pay doctor and hospital bills.

To get SSI, you must be **elderly** or **blind** or have a **disability**.

- Elderly means you are 65 or older.
- Blind means you are either totally blind or have very poor eyesight.
Children, as well as adults, can get benefits because of blindness.
- A disability means you have a physical or mental problem that is expected to last at least a year or result in death.
Children, as well as adults, can get benefits because of disability.

How Much Can You Get From SSI?

The basic monthly SSI check is the same in all states. It is:

- \$494 for one person; or
- \$741 for a couple.

Not everyone gets this exact amount, however. You may get more if you live in a state that adds to the SSI check. Or you may get less if you or your family have other money coming in each month.

Things You Own And Your Income

To get SSI, the things you own and your income must be below certain amounts.

Things You Own

We don't count everything you own when deciding if you can get SSI.

For example, we don't count your home and some of your personal belongings. Usually, we don't count your car. We **do count** cash, bank accounts, stocks and bonds.

You may be able to get SSI if the things we count are no more than:

- \$2,000 for one person; or
- \$3,000 for a couple.

Your Income

Your income is the money you have coming in, such as earnings, Social Security checks and pensions. Non-cash items you receive such as food, clothing or shelter also count as income.

The amount of income you can have each month and still get SSI depends on where you live. In some states you can have more income than in others.

If you don't work, you may be able to get SSI if your monthly income is less than:

- \$514 for one person; or
- \$761 for a couple.

If you work, you can have more income each month. If **all** of your income is from working, you may be able to get SSI if you make less than:

- \$1,073 a month for one person; or
- \$1,567 a month for a couple.

However, if you're applying for SSI disability benefits and are earning more than \$500 a month, you probably won't be eligible for benefits.

Remember: we don't count all of your income, so you may be able to get SSI even if you have more income, especially if you live in a state that adds money to the SSI checks.

Where You Live

To get SSI checks, you must live in the U.S. or Northern Mariana Islands and be a U.S. citizen or national. (Certain noncitizens also may be eligible for SSI. A Social Security representative can tell you if you qualify.)

How To Sign Up For SSI

Call our toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213**, to set up an appointment with a Social Security representative who will help you sign up. You can speak to a service representative between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our toll-free "TTY" number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. Type <http://www.ssa.gov> to access Social Security information on the Internet.

The Social Security Administration treats all calls confidentially—whether they're made to our toll-free numbers or to one of our local offices. We also want to ensure that you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some incoming and outgoing telephone calls.



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